

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ORAH BELLE
SHERMAN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in the last days of Black History Month, I want to be sure this Congress honors the memory of Orah Belle Sherman, a woman who served our democracy well. In the eyes of some, her labor may have seemed humble, but her spirit was great. For 41 years, Orah Belle Sherman served the citizens of Atlanta as the hostess of Paschal's restaurant, and the comfort and hospitality of Paschal's reached the very soul of the Civil Rights Movement.

The role of the capable hostess is fully acknowledged in politics today. Sometimes decisions that impact the history of mankind may be made in the relaxation of social environments. A hostess is the architect of that relaxation, creating a seamless atmosphere of comfort where minds can meet undistracted and strike an agreement. Her grace eases the tension of division, and the ambience she offers invites opposing sides to sit down together. Orah Belle Sherman was a master hostess among hostesses because her grace not only cooled the tensions of ideological differences but momentarily silenced the ravages of racism.

In a segregated Atlanta, where a cacophony of signs declared "White Only," "Colored Only," "Colored Waiting," "White Waiting," in the heart of a hostile America, in the recesses of the Jim Crow South where a wilderness of racism threatened the future of this nation, Paschal's became an oasis of friendship, brotherhood and peace. There African Americans were always welcomed by Orah Belle Sherman.

She created a safe space where men and women who were outcasts of mainstream America could socialize in dignity and peace. In her haven of comfort and acceptance, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ambassador Andrew Young, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Benjamin Mays and many other soon-to-be great men of the Civil Rights Movement were welcomed, fed, and given the room to deliberate. In the loving glow of Orah Belle Sherman, they strategized the actions that would become the Movement we know today. Many of the great civil rights speeches, the plans for marches and sit-ins, the boycotts and sermons were discussed in the ambience of Paschal's restaurant.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that, "Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for security and peace." The love of Orah Belle Sherman has an enduring place in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. She is a gem of the South that reminds us of a culture of hospitality that is slipping away. Her graciousness and charm consoled the builders of a new day

for America. She will long be remembered in the hearts of all the lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF
THE 57TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SERV-
ANTS MERIT AWARDS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nine honorees of the 57th Annual Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon, held Friday, February 13, 2004. This event was hosted by the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.

Tim Brennan currently serves as the Civil Division's Assistant Personnel Director/Acting Office Manager for the Clerk of Courts, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. Tim assists with interviewing applicants for the Clerk's office, promoting employees, and assisting in resolving personnel disputes.

Tim and his wife, Janene are Lakewood residents and have been married almost as long as Tim has worked in the Clerk's office. They met as employees of the Clerk's office and have three children, Patrick, Megan, and Molly.

Tim is very active in Lakewood and Cuyahoga County Democratic Party activities. He became interested in politics at an early age, as the son of Judge Hugh P. Brennan. Also, Tim has been active for many years with St. Mark's Church.

Despite his many accomplishments in work and politics, Tim feels that his greatest achievement is securing the love and support of his family.

Since 1974, Tom Bykowski has been an office mainstay for the Cleveland Municipal Court. As a supervisor in the office, he is responsible for drafting the judgment entries and other pleadings.

Tom attended St. John Cantius High School and Cuyahoga Community College. He is a longtime Old Brooklyn resident and lives with Helen, his wife of more than 25 years, and their children Benjamin and Kate. Tom is devoted to his family, but still has found time to be active in his local community development corporation, his parish school, as well as his ward & county Democratic Party activities.

He often spends his days asking the tide of people passing through the Clerk's office, "How can I help you" because he enjoys contact with the public.

Richard L. Gray has been employed at the Lakewood Municipal Court since 1974. He began his tenure in the Criminal Division and, for more than 20 years, has been the Clerk of Court.

Richard has been honored by many organizations for his work, and is particularly proud of his 1991 nomination as the Outstanding Clerk by the Ohio Association of Municipal

Court Clerks. He is a past President of that organization, as well as past President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association. He remains an active member in both organizations.

Richard is also an Army veteran of the Vietnam campaign and a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College. He and his wife of more than three decades, Janice, live in Lakewood where they raised their two children, Jessica and Alissa.

Terri Lynn Hudak is a Deputy Clerk/Supervisor in the Cuyahoga County Probate Court's Data Entry Department. She began her employment with the Court after graduating from Parma's Valley Forge High School, 23 years ago.

Terri and her department are responsible for entering new filings on the court's docket, organizing files for transmission to the Court of Appeals and assisting the public in locating court records.

She still lives in Parma with her husband Paul and their children Matthew and Valerie. She is active in St. Charles school events, parish activities, and her neighborhood block committees.

Terri says that raising her family, supporting her children's sporting events, and working full-time are her most outstanding accomplishments.

Dorothy Lawson began her work with the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court as a typist in the court constable's office. She then went on to serve as a scheduler for as many as four judges at one time.

For the past 15 years, Dorothy has served as the personal bailiff, first for Judge William E. Mahon and currently for Judge Brian J. Corrigan. She views her 1989 promotion to personal bailiff as one of her greatest accomplishments in life.

A Euclid resident, Dorothy lives with John, her husband of almost a quarter century. She spends much of her time evaluating the creativity of the excuses given by tardy lawyers. However, she fundamentally believes that her three decades of service has allowed her a deeper understanding of the judicial system.

Regina Laura Mandanci has worked for Domestic Relations Court for 24 years. She is the nominee of Administrative Judge Timothy M. Flanagan. For the past two years, Gina serves as Personal Bailiff to Judge James P. Celebreeze, after over 20 years in the Central Scheduling Department.

Gina, a Florida native and Brecksville High School graduate, lives in Brecksville with her children, Nickolas and Jessica. She is proud of her service in the Domestic Relations Court, which she started with just out of high school.

Mary Jo O'Toole is a Judicial Secretary at the Eighth District Court of Appeals with 17 years with Judge Ann Dyke. Nominated by Judge Kenneth A. Rocco and Presiding Judge Michael J. Corrigan, Mary Jo, after a brief detour into the private sector, has worked in the courts for over 20 years, shortly after her graduation from Holy Name High School.

Mary Jo and Patrick, her husband of 16 years, live in Avon with their two children,

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